

**Testimony on House Bill 2565
to
The House Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee**

**by Constantine V. Cotsoradis
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Good afternoon, Chairman Powell and members of the committee. I am Constantine Cotsoradis, deputy secretary of agriculture, and I am here in support of House Bill 2565.

This bill provides that a lawfully maintained well in areas closed to new appropriations by the chief engineer is due and sufficient cause for non-use of water. This is likely to dispel the notion of “use or lose it” and encourage conservation of water in these over-appropriated areas in the state.

We have a proposed regulation that contains similar language as this bill. It is scheduled for a public hearing in April. We will proceed with the public hearing on the new regulation. If this bill becomes law, we will delete the duplicative due and sufficient cause language from our regulation.

I will answer questions at the appropriate time.